

HOUSTON, TEXAS
CHRONICLE

E - 299,228

S - 363,711

DEC 14 1975

Gaining Support for CIA

The George Bush No-Politics Pledge

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Washington — George Bush has told several senators that he will not seek any political office nor engage in political activity as director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

He is expected to make such a pledge publicly Monday when the Senate Armed Services Committee considers his nomination to the CIA.

Bush's previous political role as chairman of the Republican National Committee has been a sticking point with some senators who oppose his nomination to take over the controversial agency.

A former Houston area congressman, Bush has been making courtesy calls in the Senate this past week to gain supporters for his confirmation.

Bush's no-politics pledge does not go as far as stating that he would turn down an offer to be the vice-presidential nominee of his party.

When President Ford announced Nov. 3 that he was picking Bush for the CIA post, Ford refused to rule out the Houstonian as a vice-presidential possibility. However, in calls to the leadership of the Senate and members of the Armed Services Committee Bush has emphasized that he would not seek any political office while with the CIA.

A White House aide said that Bush's meetings with senators have muted the "politics" issue and that his confirmation by the Senate is expected this week.

The principal senatorial opponent to Bush's nomination has been Sen. Frank Church, D-Iowa, chairman of the Select Committee Investigating Illegal and Im-



proper Actions of the CIA. In urging the Senate to reject the nomination, Church said, "We need a CIA that can resist all the partisan pressures which may be brought to bear by various groups inside and outside government."

He said that he did not believe Bush would be able to stand up to the President in an election year should the CIA's analysis of a given situation be different from Ford's.

Church is not a member of the Armed Services Committee and thus will not have an opportunity to question Bush at the Monday hearing. However, his view is expected to be represented by Sen. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., and Gary Hart, D-Colo. Both have expressed reservations about a partisan politician heading the CIA.

A White House aide said that since a presidential election year is coming up "it is understandable that some senators think the political angle is a good thing to toot about."

Jackson is an announced presidential candidate and Church is expected to declare his candidacy soon.

Bush, 51, has been serving as the top U.S. diplomat in Peking for the past year. He was appointed to the post by Ford after the President considered him for the vice-presidency but settled on Nelson Rockefeller.

Bush served as GOP chairman during the Watergate period, 1973 and 1974. Throughout his tenure he remained loyal to President Nixon.

From 1970 to 1973 he was ambassador to the United Nations. He was appointed to that post by Nixon after losing a race for the Senate against Democrat Lloyd Bentsen. Bush represented the western part of Houston and Harris County in the House of Representatives from 1966 to 1970.

Before entering politics, he was in the oil business and founded Zapata Petroleum Corp. in 1953. He built Zapata into a multimillion-dollar operation.